Cost Escalation plans for Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants

4103. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been cost escalations in the expansion plans for Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants to the tune of about Rs. 1122 crores and Rs. 1207 crores and over-runs of about five years and seven years respectively; and

(b) whether accountability and completion responsibility within the original estimates were entrusted to some definite person|authority|agency, if not, what are the reasons therefor, and if so, who is accountable for the huge over-runs?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both the expansion schemes at Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants are being implemented by the respective Project Divisions of the Plants.

As the delays have been due to factors which have mostly been beyond the control of the project authorities and on account of the performance of various manufacturers and suppliers and executing agencies, total responsibility cannot be fixed on any single authority|agency. However, SAIL has been asked to take action to fix responsibility for time and cost over-run. The main reasons for the over-runs in execution have been as follows:—

(i) Delay in supply of plant and equipment by major manufactures|suppliers;

(ii) Inadequate mobilisation of resources of manpower and input materials by the major executing agencies at site;

(iii) Defective equipment supplied by manufacturers | suppliers requiring extensive rectification work at site;

(iv) Increase in quantum of work and provision of additional facilities during the course of implementation as a result of detailed engineering;

(v) Increase in interest, duties and taxes in addition to escalation in the price of plant and equipment and other items of work during the life of the Project.

Production of Oilseeds

4104. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the kilograms per hectare production of groundnut in India is 760, while in China it is 1902 and that of rapeseed mustard in India is only 770 kgs. while in France it is 2990 kgs.; and

(b) the steps taken to have matching production and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the production and porductivity of various oilseeds, including groundnut and rapeseed & mustard, a Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) is in operation in selected districts of 17 States since 1984-85. The Project provides for financial assistance on inputs supply, input services and for demonstrations. In addition to NODP, a newly formulated Project, "Oilseeds Production Thrust Project", has been sanctioned from Kharif 1987 in 14 States. Under this new Project, thrust has been given on production of seed, plant protection umbrella, seed minikit distribution etc. All the major nine oilseeds, including groundnut and rapeseed and mustard, are covered under NODP, whereas Oilseeds Production Thrust Project covers groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.